Kashmir & UT of Chandigarh at Chandigarh;

(iv) Maharashtra, Goa, Madhya Pradesh, Gujarat at Mumbai.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) This Ministry is not aware of the setting up of such Committees by State Governments or the Union Territories. However, some states have created staff positions on export promotion.

(e) and (f) Ministry of Commerce had written to State Governments not to levy some local taxes on inputs used for export production/100% Export Oriented Units. The issue was also emphasised by the then Commerce Minister during the meetings mentioned in reply to part (a). Since the Ministry of Commerce does not maintain State-wise data of exports, the effect of various levies on export promotion from individual states cannot be ascertained.

Decline in Production and Export Cardamom

6661. SHRI BHAGWAN SHANKAR RAWAT : Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the production and export of cardamom has declined during each of the last three years in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor and the details of its percentage as compared to the above period; and

(c) the steps taken by the Goverment to boost the production and the export of cardamom ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI BOLLA BULLI RAMAIAH) : (a) and (b) The production and export of cardamom (Small) have shown a mixed trend during the last 3 years as may be seen from the details given below :-

Year	% (Tonnes)	Production Increase/Decrease over last year	% Qty. (Tonnes)	Increase/ Decrease over last year	% Value (Rs. Crs.)	Export Increase/Decrease over last year
1994-95	7000	6.06	257	-33.59	7.63	-47.56
1995-96	7900	12.86	500	94.55	12.40	62.52
1996-97 (E)	6750	-14.56	240	-52.00	9.21	-25.73

(E) Estimate

Source : Production – Estimate by the Spices Board

Export – DGCI&S Calcutta/Shipping Bills/ Exporters Returns

The decline in production during 1996-97 occurred mainly due to adverse climatic conditions. The fluctuations in exports have been mainly due to stiff price competition offered by Guatemala in the overseas markets.

(c) Some of the steps taken by the Government to increase production and export of Cardamom include :-

(i) Production and supply of quality planting material.

(ii) Assistance for replantation of old diseased plants.

(iii) Subsidy for irrigation and land development; and

(iv) Assistance for purchase of plant protection equipment.

(v) Exemption of cess on export of cardamom.

(vi) Reimbusement of air freight charges at the rate of Rs. 20 per kg. for export of small cardamom in consumer packs by air to middle-east destinations.

(vii) Sponsoring trade delegations and participation in trade fairs.

Disinvestment Commission

6662. SHRI V. PRADEEP DEV : Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state :

(a) whether the credit rating agencies engaged by the disinvestment commission to study the future profitability, technology levels, share value and other relevant details of the 40 Public Sector Undertakings referred to it by the Core Group of Secretaries for possible disinvestment by the Government has submitted its report;